

Testimony for Public Hearing
Judiciary Committee
24 March 2017

Edward M. Waldner
23 Baileyville Road
Middlefield, CT 06455

I write, as a concerned voter from Middlefield, Connecticut, to request that you support **HB 7285 AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLAINTS THAT ALLEGE MISCONDUCT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PERSONNEL**. HB 7285 is intended to ensure compliance with the provisions of section 7-294bb of the general statutes concerning the acceptance, processing and investigation of a complaint from a member of the public relating to alleged misconduct committed by law enforcement agency personnel. I believe HB 7285 requires amendment to ensure that appropriate penalties are included for non-compliance by police departments, that standard complaint forms and processes be implemented, and that law enforcement agencies be required to track complaint data and to annually report specific complaint information to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

A report by ACLU titled Earning Trust: Addressing Police Misconduct Complaints in Connecticut documents that many police departments make it difficult for people to access basic and legally-required information about how to file complaints regarding police misconduct. Many police departments do not post complaint related policies and forms on-line, many refuse to accept anonymous complaints and some include threats of prosecution as part of the complaint process. These behaviors at times appear to violate state law and policy.

I urge you to support passage of **HB 7285 AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLAINTS THAT ALLEGE MISCONDUCT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PERSONNEL** with amendments to ensure that appropriate penalties are included for non-compliance by law enforcement agencies, that standard complaint processes and forms be implemented across the state and that law enforcement agencies be required to track complaint data and report annually complaint information to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input on HB 7285.

Sincerely,
Edward Waldner